

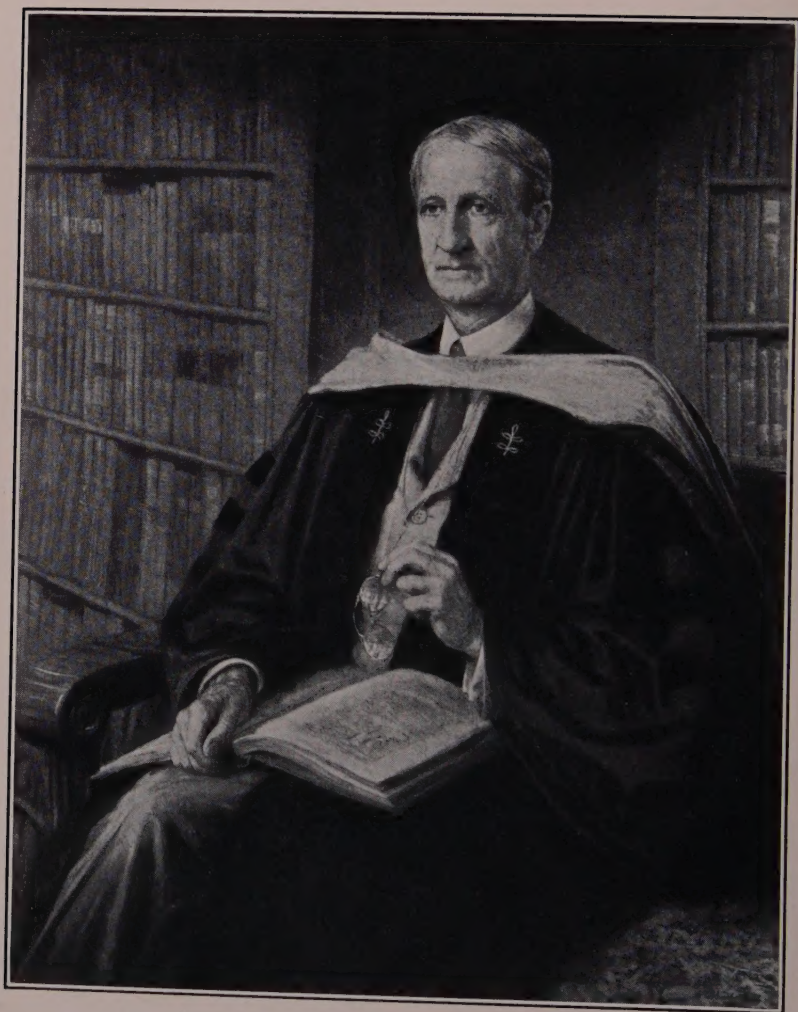
BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

VOLUME XIV

OAKES AMES MEMORIAL VOLUME

BOTANICAL MUSEUM
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
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From a painting by Blanche Ames, 1946

OAKES AMES

1874-1950

A YEAR has now elapsed since Professor Oakes Ames, who served the Botanical Museum as its principal administrative officer from 1923 to 1945, first as Curator, later as Supervisor, and finally as Director, passed away on April 28, 1950. In the intervening months the members of the staff of the Botanical Museum have been engaged in completing this volume of the *Botanical Museum Leaflets* which, soon after his death, it was decided to dedicate to his memory.

The choice of the *Leaflets* as the medium for a memorial volume was a quite natural one since Professor Ames himself founded the *Leaflets* and since they represent not only his diverse botanical interests, but also his insistence upon high quality in paper, printing, composition and illustration. Professor Ames deplored the trend toward cheaper publications. "A scholarly scientific paper," he said, "is a jewel worthy of a proper setting."

The entire staff of the Botanical Museum has shared in the production of this volume, and the papers which it contains represent quite accurately the extraordinary diversity of Professor Ames' botanical interests. Of the fourteen papers, ten are concerned with taxonomy and three of these with the taxonomy of the orchids, Professor Ames' lifelong special interest. His second professional love, economic botany, is represented by eight papers of which five are also taxonomic and three are in ethnobotany, a field which the Botanical Museum, at Professor Ames' instigation, has fostered in recent years. Paleo-

botany, a traditional interest of the Museum and one which Professor Ames was instrumental in reviving, is represented by one significant paper. Professor Ames' sustained interest in the course in Economic Botany, which he taught for many years, finds representation in "The Story of Pan Chewing in India" which was submitted as a term paper by a student enrolled in the course.

Only one facet of Professor Ames' botanical career fails to find expression in this volume; his broad philosophical outlook upon the Orchidaceae, a plant family to whose study the major part of his life was devoted. Happily this interest had previously been treated in "Orchids in Retrospect," a collection of his essays on the Orchidaceae which was published in 1948 by his colleagues to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his service to Harvard University. This book also contains a biographical sketch.

With deep respect for the memory of Oakes Ames, with constant admiration for the standards of excellence for which he stood, and with a firm purpose of perpetuating the sound traditions which he established, the members of the staff of the Botanical Museum dedicate this memorial volume.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

April 28, 1951

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NUMBER 1 (June 27, 1949)

- Degradation of Plant Remains in Organic Sediments
BY ELSO S. BARGHOORN 1

NUMBER 2 (October 26, 1949)

- Plantae Colombianae XII
BY RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES 21

NUMBER 3 (December 7, 1949)

- Nomenclatural Notes and New Concepts of Tropical American Orchids
BY CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH 49

NUMBER 4 (February 6, 1950)

- Studies in the Genus *Hevea* III
BY RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES 79

- The Identity of *Ucuquí*
BY JOÃO MURÇA PIRES AND RICHARD EVANS
SCHULTES 87

- The Correct Name of the *Yaupon*
BY RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES 97

- A New Variety of *Ilex vomitoria* from Southern Mexico
BY A. J. SHARP 107

NUMBER 5 (March 20, 1950)

Plantae Austro-Americanae VI

BY RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES 109

NUMBER 6 (November 6, 1950)

Notes on Peruvian Cinchonas I

BY W. H. HODGE 137

NUMBER 7 (December 11, 1950)

Prehistoric Plant Remains from Bat Cave

BY C. E. SMITH, JR. 157

NUMBER 8 (January 15, 1951)

The Story of Pan Chewing in India

BY M. GOWDA 181

NUMBER 9 (March 13, 1951)

New Orchids from Africa

BY V. S. SUMMERHAYES 215

A Revision of the Genus *Angraecopsis*

BY V. S. SUMMERHAYES 240

NUMBER 10 (April 13, 1951)

Whence Came Maize to Asia?

BY PAUL C. MANGELSDORF AND DOUGLAS L.

OLIVER 263